

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 131417

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 L-03 SS-20 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 NSC-07

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DRAFTED BY EB/AN:WBCOBB:VLV

APPROVED BY EB/AN:MHSTYLES

EB/TB - MR.KLEMSTEIN

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P 192107Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, MY

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

FOR JOHN MEADOWS, CHAIRMAN US CIVAIR DEL

FOLLOWING IS TEXT CAB LETTER TO SECRETARY DATED JUNE 18,
1974:

QUOTE. THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS
WITH MALAYSIA SCHEDULED IN KUALA LUMPUR JUNE 26, 1974.

AN AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED WITH
MALAYSIA IN 1969 IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES WAS GRANTED
AUTHORITY AT KUALA LUMPUR VIA VARIOUS POINTS IN SOUTHEAST
ASIA. THE ROUTE ANNEX OF THE AGREEMENT DID NOT DESIGNATE
A ROUTE FOR MALAYSIA BUT LEFT SUCH CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE
CONSULTATIONS.

INDICATIONS ARE THAT MALAYSIA IS EMBARKING ON A RESTRICTIVE
CIVIL AIR POLICY AND HAS IN MIND A REVIEW IN THE UPCOMING
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PAGE 02 STATE 131417

NEGOTIATIONS OF THE AUTHORITY GRANTED THE UNITED STATES IN

THE 1969 AGREEMENT. IT CAN THEREFORE BE PRESUMED THAT THIS RESTRICTIVENESS, AS IT APPLIES TO UNITED STATES AUTHORITY, WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARD THE PROTECTION OF MALAYSIAN AIRLINE SYSTEM (MAS) ON OPERATIONS DIRECTLY COMPETITIVE WITH PAN AMERICAN. IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE AGREEMENT, PAN AMERICAN

IS ALREADY RESTRICTED TO THIRD AND FOURTH FREEDOM TRAFFIC ON THE BANGKOK-KUALA LUMPUR SECTOR AND HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT SIMILAR RESTRICTIONS WILL CONDITION THE KUALA LUMPUR-TOKYO OPERATIONS AT SUCH TIME AS MAS BEGINS OPERATING THESE POINTS. PAN AMERICAN HAS ALSO BEEN ADVISED THAT EXPANDED SERVICES WILL NOT BE AUTHORIZED PENDING INTER-GOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

A SECOND REASON FOR MALAYSIAN INTEREST IN SEEKING CONSULTATIONS AT THIS TIME MAY BE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT PROVISIONS CALLING FOR THE SPECIFICATION OF A MALAYSIAN ROUTE TO THE UNITED STATES. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT MAS WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO EXPLOIT ANY ROUTE GRANT TO THE UNITED STATES AT THIS STAGE OF ITS DEVELOPMENT. NOR DOES MALAYSIA APPEAR PREPARED TO PERMIT ITS NATIONAL CARRIER TO UNDERTAKE THE RISKS INVOLVED IN THE COMPETITIVE OPERATION OF SUCH A ROUTE. HOWEVER, IF, IN FACT, THIS PROVES TO BE THE REASON FOR CONSULTATIONS, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER A REASONABLE ROUTE REQUEST.

THE BOARD BELIEVES MALAYSIA IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT AS A TRAFFIC POINT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH POTENTIAL TO INFLUENCE FUTURE UNITED STATES CARRIER OPERATIONS. AT SUCH TIME AS MALAYSIA'S INTENTIONS IN THESE TALKS ARE MORE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD, THE BOARD WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON SPECIFIC MALAYSIAN PROPOSALS. END QUOTE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AIR TRAFFIC, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, AIR ROUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE131417
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WBCOBB:VLV
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740160-0590
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740631/aaaabaeh.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <24 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR JOHN MEADOWS, CHAIRMAN US CIVAIR DEL
TAGS: ETRN, TH, US, (MEADOWS, JOHN)
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005